

# Salt River Fire Department Operating Guidelines

## Tactical Paramedic Operations

April 2000

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### PURPOSE

The Tactical Medic Program was initiated, into the Salt River Police and Fire Departments; to address the increased risks associated with tactical law enforcement actions. The potential for injury and death to officers and civilians is always present during dynamic police actions. The primary mission of the Tactical Medic is to provide emergency medical care in the field to officer and citizens, injured or taken ill during high risk incidents, in accordance with the Tactical Medic's base station, Arizona Department of Health Services, and AMES protocols. The Tactical Medic insures that team members are afforded the best possible treatment and are transferred in a timely manner to an appropriate level of care facility, where appropriate treatment can be rendered. Further, the Tactical Medic will provide humanitarian medical assistance to non-law enforcement personnel injured or taken ill during an operation until appropriate transfer to the local EMS system can safely be effected. Police Departments nationwide now recognize the need to train and provide Tactical Medics to respond as an integral part of a tactical team. This approach has become "The Standard of Care" at tactical incident scenes.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **PROVIDE CARE UNDER FIRE / OR IN HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS WHEN REQUIRED.**
- **REDUCE LINE OF DUTY INJURIES AND DISABILITY COSTS.**
- **DEVELOP AND APPLY INJURY CONTROL STRATEGIES.**
- **IMPROVE THE SALT RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT'S POSTURE IN LIABILITY PRONE CIRCUMSTANCES.**
- **ACCESS AND ANALYZE MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE AND PROVIDE SUPERVISORS WITH AN ACCURATE MEDICAL THREAT ASSESSMENT.**
- **PROVIDE FOR THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF CARE ALLOWABLE BY THE TACTICAL MEDICS BASE STATION, ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, AND AMES PROTOCOLS.**

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### TACTICAL MEDIC OFFICER - RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Tactical Medic shall act as a patient liaison, and or patients advocate, and assume patient control, for officers who are injured in the line of duty. If there is more than one officer injured, a triage assessment will be done. Care for the less severe officer will be transferred to the local EMS entity. **Transfer of patient care will take place, only if the receiving medical provider is of equal or greater medical certification.**
- The Tactical Medic shall establish good working relationships within the local EMS System and of the receiving facilities. This will assure appropriate integration of the Salt River Police Department's Tactical Medic program into the EMS system as a whole.
- The Tactical Medic shall monitor the medical effects of environmental conditions on individual and team performance. Including considerations for sleep deprivation, nutritional status, and heat and cold stress. The Tactical Medic advises the Incident Commander or Team Leader of any detected problems.
- The Tactical Medic shall conduct medical threat assessments to determine the potential impact of medical/health factors on personnel and on mission outcome.
- The Tactical Medic shall maintain important medical history, immunizations, and current health records of each team member. The confidentiality of this information is ensured by the Tactical Medic and is intended to provide critical medical information and history to the appropriate medical personnel, in order to save valuable time during the treatment of any injury and illness.
- The Tactical Medic shall participate in a continuous Quality Improvement program.

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### TACTICAL MEDIC - QUALIFICATIONS

Team Members assigned to fulfill the Tactical Medic role shall have the minimum qualifications:

1. Shall be administratively assigned to the same base station as the Salt River Fire Department paramedics.
2. Current Certification at the EMT - Paramedic Level, at a minimum.
3. Two years experience, working in the field as an EMT - Paramedic.
4. Current BLS/ACLS certification.
5. Counter Narcotics Tactical Medical Support (C.O.N.T.O.M.S.) 58-hour tactical medic course or equivalent.
6. Basic Tactical / S.W.A.T. Course.
7. Be in excellent physical condition.

**The following qualifications are highly desirable and should be obtained as soon as practical.**

1. Clandestine Lab training.
2. PHTLS Certification.
3. HAZMAT Training.
4. SCBA Training.
5. **Other training, as designated by the Chief of Police and Fire Department Chief or the Team Tactical leader.**

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### TACTICAL MEDIC - TRAINING

Team members assigned to fulfill the role of Tactical Medic shall ensure that:

1. Maintain EMT-Paramedic certification. Both State and National Registry. (Every two years)
2. Maintain BLS/ACLS certification. (Every two years)
3. Maintain C.O.N.T.O.M.S. certification. (Every three years)
4. Maintain AZ Post Certification (if applicable).
5. Maintain any certifications or training designated by the Chief of Police, and or the Tactical Team Leader.

### TACTICAL MEDIC - CALLOUT PROCEDURE (LOCAL)

Tactical Medic requests will be made through the team Tactical Leader. Personnel functioning, as Tactical Medics will respond for mission briefing of to the designated command post of an incident as requested.

When reporting for mission briefing, the Tactical Medic will determine the following:

1. Number of persons involved.
2. Number of suspects.
3. Team assignment.
4. Down officer procedure.
5. Location that responding medical units will go if the target address becomes inaccessible.
6. Determine if the operation is local (EMS transport less than fifteen minutes) or remote. If remote, follows remote operations procedure. When reporting to the command post for an ongoing incident, the Tactical Medic will:
  - Insures that the Incident Commander or Team Leader is aware of his arrival.
  - Dresses out in equipment appropriate for event type.

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- Reports to command post / staging area for assignment.
- Determines if operation is local (EMS transport less than fifteen minutes) or remote. If remote, follows remote operations procedure.

### **TACTICAL MEDIC - CALLOUT PROCEDURE (REMOTE)**

A remote operation is define as any event taking place where the EMS transport time is greater than fifteen minutes from the scene to definitive care in a Level I trauma facility for any injured personnel or citizen.

In this event, the following procedure is recommended.

1. Evaluate and identify a landing zone that can be utilized by responding EMS aircraft. The landing zone should be close enough to be readily accessible, but remote enough from the scene to be secure.
2. Properly trained personnel will maintain control of the landing zones for EMS aircraft, if at all possible.
3. In the case of pre-planned events, pre-staged EMS personnel will be advised in only the most general terms as to the time and location of the event. EMS personnel will be staged at a tactically secure location near the target address as possible.
4. Medical Equipment and supplies will be augmented for remote operations as designated by the Incident Commander, and or the Tactical Team Leader.
5. The Tactical Medic upon approval of the Incident Commander and or Tactical Team Leader will make arrangements for standby EMS personnel.

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### **TACTICAL MEDIC - DOCUMENTATION**

Tactical Medics who provide care will document the event as follows:

1. All injuries will be documented.
2. Sick Call will be performed after every operation.
3. Any severe injuries, in which the Tactical Medic accompanies the officer to the hospital, will be documented on a Salt River Fire Department EMS form. For review by the Tactical Medic's administratively assigned base station.